

To the Independent Planning Commission.

From: Allan Dowe
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Subject: **Objection** to the proposed Santos Narrabri Gas Project. 4/8/2020

My wife and I are grain farmers on the highly productive black soils between Edgeroi and Bellata just north of Narrabri.

Although not directly affected by the proposed NGP we know we live in one of the seven sub-basins (Bellata) presented to Santos investors as potential for future development.

We live in part of the 3.2 million hectares surrounding the Pilliga project which have been surveyed road by road with 96% declaring they do not want to live in a gas field. In addition to not wanting to live in an industrialised landscape, the gas wells, roads, pipelines and other infrastructure are not compatible with our sustainable farming practices.

There were 22,485 objections to the Santos EIS and only 296 submissions in support making it the most protested project in the history of NSW. 499 of these submissions came from the local Narrabri area with those who objected outnumbering those who support the project by two to one. Six other surveys all show that those who oppose the NGP outnumber those who support it by at least two to one and higher.

Santos arrived in Narrabri in late 2011 when they purchased Eastern Star Gas and the bad reputation coal seam gas had developed quickly followed. The attempts to down play, trivialise and minimise the many negative impacts of coal seam gas by Santos and the Department of Planning have not worked. The reason for this can be found in the answers to Survey questions in the GISERA: Social Baseline Assessment: Narrabri Project, about trust in Santos and the Government, which are negative.

Presentations during the 7 days of hearings to the Commissioners, combined with the written submissions to date are overwhelmingly objecting to the NGP. The advantages of jobs, economic growth, and being able to put downward pressure on gas prices were all disputed by expert speakers. The attempts by the Department of Planning to tell us they **think** (a word used frequently when they were questioned by the Commissioners) they can, minimise, avoid to the greatest extent possible, and reduce impacts, by adaptive management, and implementing strict conditions on Santos, did not allay our concerns.

As we do not need this Narrabri Gas project it has been shown by the arguments presented that on **balance** (a word used by the Department of Planning), the project is not in the public interest and it should not be approved.

Yours Sincerely

Allan Dowe.